The Southern PATRIOT

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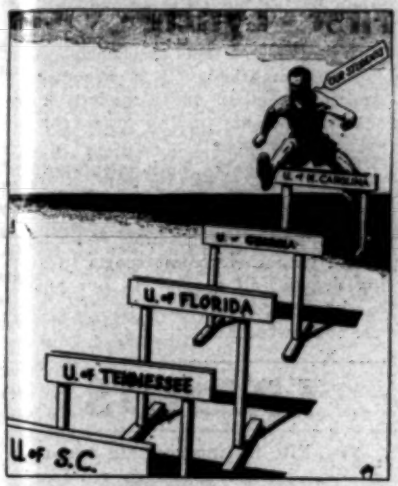
Six To Go!

Just Six More Hurdles to Go!



N. Carolina U. Drops Race Ban

Following a Federal Circuit Court of Appeals decision which left them no alternative, the trustees of the University of North Carolina voted to admit "qualified" Negroes to the graduate and professional schools of that university.

At the urging of President Gordon Gray, however, they are making a face-saving appeal of the ruling to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Thus was jolted the recently laggard conscience of what was once called the South's most liberal university.

"Eleven down, six to go," rejoiced one editorialist, and went on to point out that Jim Crow post-graduate schools remain only in Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi.

Suits are pending in the first four states.

Flash: U. S. District Court Judge Robert L. Taylor has ruled that the U. of Tennessee must admit 4 Negroes to the Law School. The case was heard previously by a panel of 3 Federal judges.

TWO STUDIES IN BIGOTRY

"Washington Confidential" is one of the most blatantly racistic books ever to come to our attention.

It is written by two Hearst employees, Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, and in style and bias it is in their master's image.

Sex . . . sordid promiscuity and prostitution . . . is the book's central theme.

It should be ignored, as unworthy of serious discussion, but it is dangerous. The authors, with their know-it-all manner and telegraphic syntax, are gunning for the mind of the man on the street. They are likely to gain wide audience on the reputation of a previous work they did about Chicago. Moreover, Walter Winchell (who pays such fervid homage to American ideals) has been plugging the book in season and out.

Read some blood-curdling excerpts:

"Agonized oratory through the decades has been banging against the walls of the Capitol, demanding that Washingtonians be given the precious privilege of the vote. It is as futile as spitting against the wind.

"And we will tell you why there will be no vote—Confidential.

"If Washington got home rule, its first mayor would be a gentleman affectionately known to his constituents as Puddin Head Jones. And Mr. Jones is a Negro."

Concerning housing in Washington::

"The reason you've seen . . . pictures (of this slum)—always with the Capitol dome in the background—is that there are no others available.

"Eleanor Roosevelt was one of the chief propagandists who exploited this 'blot' on Washington. This particular slum, always photographed, always on every sight-seeing itinerary, is only a couple of blocks long and is surrounded on all sides by presentable Negro homes. . . . It remained there during the Roosevelt administration . . . only because an official who was in Mrs. Roosevelt's confidence ordered it undisturbed—for propaganda reasons."

About employment:

"The lot of Negroes is enviable compared to that of their brethren elsewhere. We called Chicago's Bronzeville Black Paradise. But that was before we saw Washington's Negro Heaven.

"No Negro is ever fired from a government job if it can possibly be helped. When necessary to cut down a staff, the whites go first, reversing the process of private businesses . . . When a white man wants to become a cop he takes a stiff civil service test . . . Most of the Negroes who have been getting on the force recently did it on political pull.

"Despite the maudlin tears of reformers about the horrible conditions existing in Washington's 'Negro Ghetto,' there are probably

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more new Cadillac convertibles being driven from its doors than from any others . . .

"Yet, despite the flashy visible prosperity of Washington's Negroes, a disproportionate number are on public relief. Many draw dole and social security checks while gainfully employed at one or two jobs under other names . . ."

And on and on. It is too nauseous to list more of these half-truths and obvious smears.

We need not add that the authors apparently thought they would be too confidential if they mentioned anything about the District of Columbia's Jim Crow restaurants, hotels, theaters, schools and housing developments. And most cryptic in its context is their observation that "due to determined efforts of local reformers, Jim Crow seems to be on the way out in Washington, as it is everywhere and should be."

* * *

The harmful social effect of this kind of "reporting" was described in detail by Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson in a decision on April 9th which ordered a re-trial for two Florida Negroes convicted of rape in 1949.

The court unanimously handed down the ruling on the grounds that Negroes had been excluded from service on the trial jury. But in a separate decision, concurred in by Justice Frankfurter, Jackson said:

"Newspapers, in the enjoyment of their constitutional rights, may not deprive accused persons of their right to fair trial. These convictions, accompanied by such events, do not meet any civilized conception of due process of law.

"Newspapers published as a fact, and attributed the information to the sheriff, that these defendants had confessed. No one, including the sheriff, repudiated the story. Witnesses and persons called in as jurors, said they had read or heard of this statement. However no confession was offered at the trial.

"The only rational explanations for its nonproduction in court are that the story was false or that the confession was obtained under circumstances which made it inadmissable or its use inexpedient . . ."

"But that is not all. Of course, such a crime stirred deep feeling and was exploited to the limit by the press . . . A mob burned the home of defendant Shepherd's father and mother and two other Negro houses. Negroes were removed from the community to prevent their being lynched. The National Guard was called out . . . The Negroes of the community abandoned their homes and fled.

"Every detail of these passion-arousing events was reported by the press under such headlines as 'Night Raiders Burn Lake Negro Homes' and 'Flames from Negro Homes Light Sky in Lake County.' These and many other articles were highly prejudicial, including a cartoon published at the time of the grand jury picturing four electric chairs and headed, 'No Compromise—Supreme Penalty.' "

The newspapers referred to showed no repentence at this censure. Said the smug **Orlando Sentinel** on April 11, "We still think people who confess to raping women whether they be white or black, should be eliminated in electric chairs.

"In other words, despite the supreme court decision, this newspaper is still against crime, thinks it should be punished instead of making heroes of criminals."

Too bad the Sentinel did not take the occasion to say whether or not it considered lynching a crime. For that same day, there appeared the following story from the neighboring town of Winter Garden:

"The lynching two weeks ago of a Negro grove worker, the third case of its kind in this area in the last year, appeared likely to go into the records as an unsolved murder . . .

"The case was not reported by officials, and newspapers did not learn of it until two days after (the victim's) death through an anonymous letter to the **Orlando Sentinel.**"

The story told how Melvin Womack, 27, was dragged from his rooming house by four white men and later found fatally wounded in an orange grove.

All this smells of a certain laxity on the part of law enforcement agencies, wouldn't you say, Mr. Sentinel? Why not reinforce your vow against crime by jacking up those responsible?

* * *

In a comment from the bench Justice Jackson remarked, "It is becoming a question whether under modern methods of publicity a fair trial can be granted any man."

With the bigotry, both calculated and naive, practiced by the authors of "Washington Confidential" and the editors of the aforementioned newspapers —and with their counterparts in varying degrees all around us, our answer to the justice's question is: "It's hard, sir, it's awful hard."

TRENDS

The FBI is investigating the death of Levi Dorsey, a Negro resident of Orange, Tex.

Dorsey, arrested by Orange police on a burglary charge in January, was released from jail on Feb. 9 and "was reported to have been seen wandering in a battered and dazed condition down a Louisiana highway a short distance from Orange," to quote an Associated Press dispatch of April 4.

He was picked up by a Louisiana deputy sheriff and taken to a DeQuincy, La., hospital where he died a few days later.

No official report of the matter was made and the Justice Department only learned of the incident from "persons whom it declined to identify."

* * *

The Missouri house of representatives last month approved a bill outlawing segregation in public schools — but tacked on an amendment allowing "local option" in each county as to whether the measure will be enforced or not.

* * *

Arizona has abandoned "mandatory" segregation in its public schools.

* * *

A survey of Negro schools in Charlotte, N. C., reveals the following:

"Despite the compulsory attendance law, many parents have been keeping their children home because they couldn't afford to give them money for lunch

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What Doctors Shall They See?

If the idea of letting Negroes go to doctors of their own race is attractive to defenders of "lily-white" medical institutions, they had better graduate some Negro doctors.

So many people seem possessed of the quaint notion that a Negro with a fractured skull, say, seeks admission to a Jim Crow hospital just to be "smart."

But look how it is in Louisiana. Look and be appalled.

The 1950 register of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners lists a total of 2,754 doctors. Of these 2,678 are white—76 are Negro!

Census figures for 1940 show that there are 849,303 Negroes in the state, 35.9 per cent of the population.

There is one Negro doctor for every 11,175 Negroes; one white doctor for every 565 whites.

If you want to set up "separate but equal" medical facilities in Louisiana, you're going to need 19 times as many Negro doctors.

But alas! The state's two medical schools are Jim Crow. No matter how you slice it, something's going to have to give.

* * *

Almost every day we learn of more tragic instances where Negroes, fatally injured have been denied admission to hospitals:

March 6 of this year Mrs. Emma Dangerfield, critically ill, was brought to Jefferson-Hillman Hospital in Birmingham, Ala. Her Negro doctor, not allowed to practice there, had made arrangements with a white doctor to receive her. Both physicians understood there was a bed available. Her husband brought $50 with him for admission fees—and the patient had insurance.

But, "then began a series of tragic happenings," to quote the **Birmingham News** of March 25.

"The husband was informed that he must make a cash deposit of $100 before his wife could be admitted. He had $50 in cash with him but was told he must produce $50 more. He called the employer, explained the situation. The concern informed the hospital that it would stand good for the second $50 and that a check for that amount would be delivered to the hospital the next morning.

"Nevertheless the patient was refused admittance. It was the understanding of her doctors, of her husband and of her friend that she was refused because the husband could not produce $100 in cash at the moment."

THE UNTOUCHABLE?

After lying in a stretcher for over two hours, the patient "was put back in the ambulance and taken home. Her husband was told to bring her back to the hospital the next morning when he was to have $100 in cash.

"The patient was never returned to the hospital. She died at approximately 8 o'clock the same night . . . Little more than an hour after being returned to her home."

The **News** interviewed the hospital administrator.

He "made the point that Jefferson-Hillman already has unpaid accounts on its books of more than $300,000, and it does not wish that sum to be enlarged if it can help it."

He denied that there was a bed available for Mrs. Dangerfield. "There is, he says, " a limit to all things . . . There are approximately 175 beds for Negroes . . . Of that number 27 are for private pay patients. On . . . the day in question, (he) indicates there were 47 private Negro patients in the space normally taken by 27."

In Jefferson County, the area serviced by the aforementioned hospital, there are 200,000 Negroes—40 per cent of the population. Certainly 40 per cent of the hospital's beds are not set aside for them. And the **News** reporter apparently did not think to ask if there were any beds available in the white wards "on the day in question."